filename does not exist, Microsoft teaches deleting the entry for the filename in the registry. (See Microsoft, pages 2-6.)

With regard to claims 1-16, an important aspect of the present invention concerns, in part, an automated method for removing entry of a device and, moreover, resides, in part, in the ease of use or single action which allows a user to perform multiple steps in a single action in a non-obvious and automated manner. This step or function, along with the other steps recited, clearly distinguishes over the prior art. It is noted that referring to U.S. Patent No. 5,960,411 to Amazon.com, the one-click e-commerce checkout method disclosed in this patent was found to be patentable for eliminating and optimizing the checkout and purchase procedure of items online without extraneous additional user input. Thus, the U.S. Patent Office determined that the elimination of user steps to streamline the purchasing process was patentable over prior art which included additional user input clicks or data entry. Similarly, the present method eliminates user input steps to streamline a method of removing entry of a device from a computer system.

Moreover, it must be again stressed that unlike *In re Venner*, 120 USPQ 192, where the *In re Venner* court determined that the claimed device used an automated system which had the same result as a manual act, the present method does not result in the same result as a manual act. The present method eliminates tedious and numerous acts by the user and avoids exhaustive searching and potential human error in not identifying all necessary entries. Accordingly, the present method does not produce the same result as when done by a human in terms of time efficiency and effectiveness. Thus, the present method is distinguishable from the method of *In re*

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Venner and, therefore, it is inappropriate to allege that the present method is unpatentable because it accomplishes the same result. Thus, similarly to the Amazon.com one-click patent, the elimination of steps in a streamline process as provided by the present method involves patentable subject matter.

Further, the claimed method includes additional elements not taught or suggested by Microsoft, which are identified below.

With regard to claim 1, the method is directed to automatically removing entry of a device from a computer system identified by the system as not being properly identified, in which the method includes scanning configuration data for a device not properly identified by the system and removing automatically, without user input, the entry for the device from the configuration data after determining the device is not properly identified.

It is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach or suggest: (i) a device identified by the system as not being properly identified; (ii) scanning configuration data using executable computer code to determine an entry for a device not properly identified by the system; or (iii) removing the entry for the device from the configuration data after the device is not properly identified. Nowhere in Microsoft is there any disclosure of a computer system that identifies a <u>device</u> that is not properly identified. Assuming that, *arguendo*, Microsoft can be said to determine that a <u>file</u> is not associated with a <u>filename</u> in a registry, such a determination is in no way equivalent to scanning configuration data to determine an entry for a <u>device</u> not properly identified by the system.

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Considering the latter point in more detail, a file and/or filename are not devices, as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that it would be completely inconsistent to the ordinary meaning of the term "device" to refer to a file and/or filename as a device in the present context. Further, the specification uses the term "device" in its common and everyday meaning, as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, to be a peripheral component of a computer system.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach or suggest scanning configuration data for a device not properly identified by the system. Although Microsoft may teach looking for a filename in a registry which is not associated with a file saved on the hard drive, Microsoft fails to teach or suggest anything with regard to an item not being properly identified by the system, let alone a file/filename and much less a device. In this regard, whether or not a file is associated with a filename is irrelevant to whether a device is properly identified by the system.

Finally, Microsoft fails to teach or suggest removing entry for a device after determining that a device is not properly identified.

With regard to claim 2, the present method further includes: (i) determining a vendor for the device; (ii) scanning all the subkeys in the configuration data for devices associated with the vendor; and (iii) deleting all keys associated with the device associated with the vendor.

It is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach or suggest a process for determining a vendor of the device and/or scanning all subkeys in the configuration data for all devices associated with the vendor so determined. Although it is alleged in the

Office Action that a vendor's name may be included within the configuration data,

nowhere in Microsoft is there any teaching or suggestion of <u>determining a vendor</u> for a

device or scanning all subkeys in the configuration data for all devices associated with

the determined vendor, as claimed. For example, it is respectfully submitted that

nowhere in Microsoft is there any teaching or suggestion of any step or process for

<u>determining</u> a vendor, or <u>scanning all subkeys for a determined vendor</u>, followed by

<u>deleting</u> all keys associated with the devices associated with the vendor.

With regard to claim 4, it is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach or

suggest deleting files in a file list. Although Microsoft may teach deleting registry entries

from a file, e.g., data or contents from within a file, Microsoft fails to teach or suggest

deleting <u>actual files</u> from a file list.

With regard to claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach or

suggest a step of saving a backup copy prior to deletion, with or without this occurring

automatically without manual user input. Although Microsoft may disclose the

functionality of saving files, Microsoft fails to teach or suggest actually conducting the

step of saving a backup. Moreover, as discussed above with regard to claim 4,

Microsoft fails to teach or suggest deleting a file and, therefore, clearly fails to teach or

suggest saving a backup prior to a deletion step, as recited in claim 5.

With regard to claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach any

method which <u>determines</u> a vendor of a <u>printer</u>, scanning subkeys in the registry for <u>all</u>

<u>printers</u> associated with the vendor, and deleting all keys for all printers associated with

the vendor automatically without manual user input. It is respectfully submitted that

nowhere in Microsoft is there any disclosure with regard to determining a vendor, let

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alone a vendor of a printer. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Microsoft does not scan subkeys in a registry for all printers associated with the vendor or deleting all keys for all printers associated with the vendor.

With regard to claim 9, it is respectfully submit that Microsoft fails to teach or suggest removing a device section and a printer port section from an initialization file.

With regard to claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach or suggest: (i) scanning a configuration file to determine all devices not properly identified by the system, (ii) deleting entries in a configuration file for all devices not properly identified by a computer system after scanning the configuration file, (iii) scanning all subkeys in the configuration file for a device entry associated with a selected vendor, and (iv) removing all keys in the configuration file associated with the selected vendor.

With regard to claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach or suggest: (i) deleting devices attached to a computer; (ii) scanning a computer system and identifying attached devices as unknown when drivers for the attached device are not present; (iii) installing all device drivers; or (iv) deleting entries in a configuration file for all devices which are not properly identified by a computer. It is respectfully submitted that nowhere in Microsoft is there any disclosure with regard to the aforementioned instructions.

With regard to claim 14, Microsoft fails to teach or suggest scanning all subkeys in a configuration file for a device entry associated with a selected vendor.

With regard to claim 15, Microsoft fails to teach or suggest instructions for removing all keys from a configuration file when the keys are associated with a device entry.

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With regard to claim 16, as discussed above with regard to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Microsoft fails to teach or suggest anything with regard to a computer device, let alone modifying an initialization file to remove all information associated with a computer device without manual user input.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-16 are not anticipated by Microsoft.

Claims 17-21, 23-26 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Windows '98-USB Troubleshooting Reference (hereinafter "Windows '98").

With regard to claim 17, it is respectfully submitted that Windows '98 fails to teach or suggest the claimed automated system for removing entry of a device. As discussed above, with regard to the rejection of claim 1 based on Microsoft, the patentability of claim 1 resides, in part, in the elimination of steps and the streamlining of removing a device and it is respectfully submitted that, for similar reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinct from, and non-obvious in view of, Windows '98.

With regard to claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that nowhere does Windows '98 teach or suggest a step for determining a vendor of a device. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that nowhere in Windows '98 is there any disclosure with regard to removing all registry keys according to a vendor of a predetermined device. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that nowhere in Windows '98 is there any teaching or suggestion of any value in deleting all registry keys associated with a vendor. Although Windows' 98 may teach deleting an entry which is associated with a

vendor, nowhere is there any teaching or suggestion in the reference of the recited

removal of <u>all registry keys associated with a vendor</u>.

With regard to claim 19, along with claims 17, 20, 21 and 23-25, it is respectfully

submitted that nowhere in Windows '98 is there any teaching or suggestion that a user

could or should modify the text of any file, let alone an initialization file, without a user

mainly searching the registry key or modifying the configuration file to indicate removal

of the device, as claimed.

With regard to claims 29-32, Applicant respectfully submits that Windows '98 fails

to teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 1, 6, 10 and 13, from which these

claims respectively depend. For example, Windows '98 fails to teach or suggest

scanning configuration data <u>to determine</u> an entry for a device not properly identified by

the system. On the contrary, Windows '98 presumes one already "knows" which device

is not properly identified, namely a USB controller. Windows '98 fails to teach or

suggest any method of scanning configuration data <u>to determine</u> entry of a device not

properly identified by the system. Thus, Windows '98 fails to teach or suggest any

determining step, as required in claims 29-32.

Further, with regard to claim 30, it is respectfully submitted that Windows '98

does not teach a method for automatically removing entry of an unknown device by

scanning a registry to determine whether a USB printer is properly identified by the

system. Although Windows '98 teaches deleting the entry for a USB device when

Windows '98 "presumes" it is not properly identified by the system, nowhere does

Windows '98 teach scanning a registry to make the determination claimed. Although

the Office Action cites the first paragraph of Windows '98 as teaching this feature, it is

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respectfully emphasized that paragraph 1 clearly states "If you encounter problems with a USB device not being recognized, or drivers not being found in Windows '98 on your notebook, the following reference information may assist you in uncovering the problem." (Windows '98, emphasis added.) Thus, the identification of a driver not being encountered is a step which a user must perform. Therefore, the Windows '98 reference does not teach a system which determines whether a USB printer is properly identified by the system. On the contrary, the user must already know that a device is not properly identified. Thus, the combination of steps of scanning a registry, followed by determining whether a USB printer is identified by the system, is not taught by Windows '98. Although Windows '98 teaches deleting a USB device which Windows '98 presumes is not properly identified by the system, nowhere does Windows '98 teach scanning a registry to make a determination, as claimed.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 17-32 are not anticipated by Windows '98.

Finally, claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Windows '98. However, contrary to the rejection, it is respectfully submitted that Windows '98 fails to teach or suggest the claimed modification of an initialization file to modify the text of any file, let alone an initialization file, as claimed.
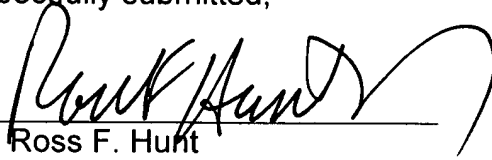
Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is not obvious in view of Windows '98.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider

the rejection and allow all of the claims presented.

Respectfully submitted,

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